



City of Newport  
**REQUEST FOR CITY COUNCIL ACTION**

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To: Mayor Xay Khamdyvoravong and Members of the Council  
From: Joseph J. Nicholson, Jr., Esq., City Manager  
Date: March 13, 2023  
Subject: Ordinance Change: Chapter 10.20.210. - Meter Charges -Parking Season  
Staff Presentation:

**RECOMMENDATION:**

The Administration recommends the following changes in the Codified City Ordinances, Chapter 10.20.210 paragraphs A-D, Meter Charges:

- Establish the time period (the season) for payment at parking meters as March 1st. through November 30th. of each year.
- Establish the time during which meters shall be in operation as 9:00 AM to 12:00 AM daily at specific parking meter areas: Washington Square, Touro St., Touro Ct., Market Square, Thames St. and Memorial Blvd. from Thames St. to Bellevue Ave.
- Establish that the fee for the maximum parking time shall not exceed four dollars (\$4.00) per hour at meters.

**BACKGROUND AND FINDINGS:**

The existing meter ordinance establishes the parking meter fee schedule period as May 1<sup>st</sup> through October 31<sup>st</sup>. The proposed ordinance adjusts the time period of the parking season from March 1 through November 30th to more closely align the paid parking season with the increased parking demand.

Extending the operating times for the downtown meters from 9:00 PM to 12:00 AM more accurately reflects current practices in the downtown area. Public parking lots (Mary St. and Gateway) and private lots operate well past 9:00 PM. Keeping the parking meters operational will encourage movement to off-street parking which will promote increased availability of on-street parking and less circling by motorists searching for an available space.

Establishing maximum meter rates, rather than fixed rates, will allow for dynamic pricing: higher rates in high demand areas and lower rates in low demand areas.

**PREVIOUS LEGISLATIVE ACTION**

N/A

**FISCAL IMPACT**

\_\_\_ Current Budgeted (Account \_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_ Requires additional appropriation \_\_\_ No Fiscal Impact

Minor additional expense will be off-set by the additional revenue

**SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS**

Proposed Ordinance

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Finance Dept. Review: 3/15/23 Date By: LS (if applicable)

CITY OF NEWPORT

ORDINANCE

OF THE

COUNCIL

NO. .

AN ORDINANCE IN AMENDMENT OF TITLE TEN OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF NEWPORT, RHODE ISLAND, REVISION OF 1994, AS AMENDED, ENTITLED, "VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC."

BE IT ORDAINED by the City of Newport:

SECTION 1. Chapter 10.20 of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Newport, Revision of 1994, as amended, entitled "**Parking Generally**," is hereby further amended as follows:

10.20.210. - Meter charges.

**DELETE PARAGRAPH A**

- A. ~~Payment for parking in designated parking meter areas at the rate established by this chapter shall be for the time period of May 1st through October 31st of each year. Such period shall be defined as "the season" for the purpose of this title.~~

**ADD IN LIEU THEREOF THE FOLLOWING:**

- A. Payment for parking in designated parking meter areas at the rate established by this chapter shall be for the time period of March 1st through November 30 of each year. Such period shall be defined as "the season" for the purpose of this title.

**DELETE PARAGRAPH B**

- B. ~~During said season, meters shall not be in operation between the hours of nine p.m. and nine a.m.~~

**ADD IN LIEU THEREOF THE FOLLOWING:**

- B. During said season, meters shall not be in operation between the hours of nine p.m. and nine a.m. except that meters located on Washington Square, Touro St., Touro Ct., Market Square, Thames St. and Memorial Blvd. from Thames St. to Bellevue Ave. shall not be in operation between the hours of 12:00 a.m. and 9:00 a.m.

**DELETE PARAGRAPH C:**

- C. ~~Except as otherwise provided in subsection D of this section, the fee for the maximum parking time shall be one dollar and twenty-five cents (\$1.25) per hour, at increments of twenty-five cents (\$0.25) for twelve (12) minutes.~~

**ADD IN LIEU THEREOF THE FOLLOWING:**

- C. Except as otherwise provided in subsection D of this section, the fee for the maximum parking time shall not exceed four dollars per hour, or the lesser sum as otherwise determined by the City Administration.

**DELETE PARAGRAPH D:**

- D. ~~The fee for the maximum parking time on Memorial Boulevard at Easton's Beach (described in Section 10.20.180(B)(12) shall be two dollars (\$2.00) per hour, at increments of fifty cents (\$0.50) per fifteen (15) minutes, the revenue from which shall be deposited into the Easton's Beach Enterprise Fund.~~

**ADD IN LIEU THEREOF THE FOLLOWING:**

- D. When at such time as the city permits the reservation of a metered parking space or spaces for a special event, construction work, or for any other reason deemed acceptable to the city, a flat fee of thirty dollars (\$30.00) per day shall be paid to the city for each reserved metered parking space. Said flat fee shall not be prorated based upon the number of hours said space is reserved within a twenty-four (24) hour period.

**DELETE PARAGRAPH E IN ITS ENTIRETY.**

SECTION 2. This ordinance shall take effect upon its passage and all ordinances or parts of ordinances inconsistent herewith are hereby repealed.

IN COUNCIL

READ AND PASSED

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Laura C. Swistak  
City Clerk